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Statement submitted by Yakutia — Our Opinion, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

The Millennium Development Goals included eradicating poverty as one of the goals, but many Governments do not take effective poverty eradication measures. We need a global partnership for implementing human rights, including applying coercive measures.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union 23 years ago, the Russian Federation had the opportunity to ensure a decent life for people, but it was not done.

The Russian Federation has massively violated human rights for a long time, and continues to do so. It presented, and presents, false information on many issues. Its arguments on certain issues directly contradict the information of United Nations bodies and stakeholders, and its foreign policy is cynical, hypocritical and based on double standards.

Prerogatives in the Russian Federation (profitable businesses, high-paying jobs, lucrative public contracts) are distributed among officials and oligarchs, their relatives and friends. In fact, a feudal system has been approved that deprives future generations of Russians of a future. According to official data, less than 20 per cent of the Russian population has incomes below the minimum subsistence level. However, in reality the majority of Russians live below the poverty line because of the undervaluation of minimum social standards, the low real purchasing power of income, the unreliability of average statistical data and the overestimation of prices and tariffs. This leads to hunger and poverty, which threaten the physical survival of people and may be classified as creating conditions for genocide.

The Government of the Russian Federation states that it does not have the financial capacity to ensure a decent life for the majority, but the State's priorities do not take into account the interests of the majority. The State is aimed at enriching the minority. If the authorities do not have enough money to ensure a decent life for the majority, how can it ensure a good living for the minority (1.5 per cent of Russia's population owns 50 per cent of the national assets)? Why are there 131 Russian billionaires with combined capital of $147 billion? They became billionaires as a result of unfair and criminal privatization.

It is false that the Russian Federation cannot ensure a decent life for the majority. Russia has enough financial resources. For example, under the law "On the rights of Russian citizens to incomes from exploitation of the natural resources of the Russian Federation", Russia can provide proper redistribution of revenues from natural resources to every Russian citizen. We also need to introduce a progressive income tax, increase the understated social standards, stimulate consumption and adopt other socially oriented measures.

However, instead, the Government of the Russian Federation continues to violate the basic right of every Russian citizen to a decent life, which in turn discredits the international process of human rights protection. This may continue indefinitely if appropriate sanctions are not applied. We propose more detailed consideration of this situation and that the Russian Federation be prosecuted for presenting false information and violating human rights. We urge United Nations bodies and stakeholders to take adequate coercive measures against the Russian Federation, that is, apply diplomatic, procedural, trade, financial and other sanctions. It is also appropriate to consider blocking foreign assets of the country

and its exclusion from international organizations. Regardless of their status, all persons responsible for human rights violations must be prosecuted. It is necessary to find the Russian senior officials responsible for human rights violations in Russia and bring them to justice.